THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) Department of Tourism has a scheme for granting financial assistance to the State Governments for promotion of fairs and festivals which attract both international and domestic tourists. During the current financial year there is a budget provision of Rs. 10.00 lakhs under this Head. The financial assistance is given on receipt of proposals from the State Governments.

(b) Allotment of funds for fairs and festivals is not made State-wise. The proposals received in this regard are considered on merit of each case.

Deformed baby abandoned in Kasturba medical college at Manipal

1964. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to a case of a deformed baby abandoned at Kasturba Medical College, Manipal in Karnataka;

(b) whether it is a fact that the victim has a congenital deformity or phocomelia, caused by radiation or uterine infection,

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any similar radiation defects have come to notice near Indian Rare Earth Metals Ltd. in Kerala or around Trombay or on other Nuclear power station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (d) Information is being collected from the State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Preparation of food in Aluminium Utensils

1965 SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the press report that peparation of food in aluminium utensils is injurious to health; and

(b) if so the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The study quoted in the press report has not been subsequently confirmed. Until hazards of consuming food prepared and served in aluminimum vessal is scientifically established by medical experts, it will not be appropriate to impose a ban on use of aluminium vessels/casseroles.

Starting of computerised air reservations

1966. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start computerised air reservations at Allahabad, Nasik, Khajuraho, Leh and Gorakhpur, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) No, Sir. Not at present.

(b) High speed data circuits required to connect CRTs (Cathode Ray Terminals) are not feasible at present at these stations.

Accommodation for the X-ray plant for CGHS, Allahabad

1967. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1522 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th March, 1988 and state whether any suitable accommodation has been found to put

to use the X-Ray plant purchased for CGHS, Allahabad; and if not, what are the hurdles in getting the accommodation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): No suitable accommodation has been found so far to install the X-Ray Plant purchased for C.G.H.S., Allahabad, Efforts are still being made to locate suitable Government accommodation for installing the Plant.

Prevention against vaccine preventable diseases

1968. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about four million children die annually and an equal number of children are disabled due to vaccine preventable diseases;

(b) whether any steps have been taken by Government to save children from preventable diseases; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when the target of health for all would be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) The latest available estimates of child deaths from all causes in the age group of 0-4 years obtained from Sample Registration System (SRS) pertain to the year 1985 and indicate that 3.55 million children die every year.

(b) To reduce infant mortality and morbidity by vaccine preventable diseases, EPI was started in 1978. This programme has been accelerated since 1985 as Universal Immunisation Programme. Lately the programme has been given the Mission Status.

(c) Under the Immunisation Programme 3 doses of DPT, Polio and one dose of BCG and Measles Vaccine is given to all eligible children under 1 year age. Pregnant women are given two doses of TT to prevent neo-natal tetanus. The goal of this programme is to achieve the coverage of 85 per cent of infants and 100 per cent of pregnant women by 1990. It is hoped to achieve the targets of 87 and below 60 IMR by 1990 and 2000.

Marketing of Fluoride Tooth paste

1969. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the article which appeared in Indian Express dated the 24th July, 1988 under the caption "Fear of fluoride to the effect that the marketing of fluoride toothpaste in India is not only unnecessary and unethical but criminal also;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that Dr. A. K. Susheela of All India Institute of Medical Sciences has suggested for a ban on marketing and advertising of fluoride tooth-paste in the country; and

(d) if so, details thereof and Government's decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had appointed a Committee of Experts to examine all aspects of fluoride in tooth paste. Dr. A. K. Susheela of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi was also a member of this Committee. The Committee has submitted its report. Final decision is being taken in consultation with the Director General of Health Services.